

Community and Tribal Programs

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Tobacco Facts

Tobacco-related diseases kill about 8,000 Washington residents every year.

Tobacco-related medical costs in Washington exceed \$1.8 billion annually.

The tobacco industry spends over \$185 million annually in Washington promoting its products and generating new smokers.

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Research shows that meaningful and sustained reductions in tobacco use can occur only when a comprehensive set of tobacco prevention activities are integrated in communities. Washington's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program provides more than \$6 million annually to county health departments, community-based organizations, and tribes to support tobacco prevention activities in all 39 counties, 27 Washington tribes, and five higher-risk populations.

How the community component works

Local tobacco prevention programs are effective because they carry out activities designed to meet the unique needs of their communities. Community-based activities include:

- Forming partnerships between schools, government agencies, and other community-based groups to help smokers quit and prevent others from starting.
- Raising public awareness of tobacco issues and resources to help smokers quit, such as through promotion of the Washington State Tobacco Quit Line.
- Training doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals to help their patients quit.
- Educating families and businesses about the dangers of secondhand smoke.
- Developing and providing resources to help high-risk communities.

State provides technical assistance to communities

In addition to direct funding, the state Tobacco Prevention and Control Program provides local programs with tobacco prevention and control materials through a materials clearinghouse, training, consultation information on the latest research, and survey and evaluation information.

A comprehensive approach to fighting tobacco use

Research shows that state and local tobacco programs must be broad-based and comprehensive to be effective. State and local programs also conduct public awareness and media campaigns, provide services to help people quit, encourage smoke-free environments, and restrict the ability of kids to get tobacco.